(c) steps taken to demarcate parameters for the length of an ongoing serial;

(d) how many channels Doordarshan is at present running; and

(c) whether there is any plan to start a new channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Si:.

(b) and (c) As per the guidelines, the Selection Committee while' granting approval to a TV serial specifics the number of episodes. The number of episodes, normally does not exceed 13 in case of DD-1 and 26 in case of DD-2. Extension beyond the specified number of episodes is granted by Director General, Doordarshan keeping in view the popularity of the serial, its commercial return, quality of production and the subject requirement, etc.

(d) In satellite mode, Doordarshan telecasts programmes on 19 channels including an International channel.

(c) No, Sir. Not at present.

Delay in submission of Fifth Pay Commission Report

393. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay on the part of the Fifth Pay Commission to submit its report on the pay, allowances etc. of the Central Government employees; and

(b) the date by which the Commission will submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There has been no delay in submission of the Report by the Pay Commission given the time taken by earlier Commissions. In acordancc with the terms of reference, the Commission is required to submit its Report as soon as feasible. The Commission has informed that it will submit its Report soon.

Neurosurgery Services In Safdarjung Hospital

394. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Safdarjung Hospital has a neurosurgery department, but there is no specialist and that there are three neurosurgeons who never come to hospi tal; and

(b) if so, the action Government prop ose to take against the doctor and also appointing a specialist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQ-BAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) There are 3 Neuro-Surgeons (Specialists) posted in Safdarjang Hospital with appropriate resident back-up and no such incident has come the notice of the authorities.

पालम कालोनी, दिल्ली में सी०जी०एच०एस० के अन्तर्गत यूनानी औषधालय खोले जाने की मांग

395. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोरंकी: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पालम कालोनी क्षेत्र के निवासियों द्वारा इस क्षेत्र में केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वास्थ्य योजना (सी०जी०एच० एस०) के अर्न्तगत यूनानी औषधालय खोले जाने की निरन्तर मांग की जा रही है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस मांग को पूरा करने के लिए कोई कदम उठाए हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और औषधालय कब तक खोले जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलीम इकबाल शेरवानी): (क) से (घ) पालम कालोनी, दिल्ली के केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वास्थ्य योजना औषधालय के लाभार्थ नारायणा का केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वास्थ्य योजना यूनानी यूनिट उपचार के प्रयोजनों के लिए कवर किए जाते हैं और इस यूनिट से उन्हें सभी

सुविधाएं प्रदान की जा रही हैं। वित्तीय और बुनियादी सुविधाओं की कठिनाइयों को देखते हुए प्रत्येक चिकित्सा पद्धति के लिए प्रत्येक स्थल पर केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वास्थ्य योजना औषधालय खोलना संभव नहीं हो सकता ।

Losses incurred by Indian Airlines on non-economical routes

396. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of losses incurred by the Indian Airlines for its operation on non-economical routes during the last three years;

(b) whether Indian Airlines is getting any budgetary support to compensate these losses and losses due its operation in the North-East; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to subsidise its operation on non-economic routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) Indian Airlines incurred losses of Rs. 72.86 crores, Rs. 82.91 crores and Rs. 67.61 crores during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 repectively on its operation on non-economical routes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

New Customs Strategic Plan

397. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for faster clearance of cargo and passengers as well as to detect frauds by customs authorities;

(b) the new customs strategic plan submitted by India to the Regional contact points meeting of the customs administrations of the Asia-pacific of the World Customs Organisation; and

(c) the decision taken in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government have taken a number of steps for faster clearance of cargo and passengers by providing for single window clearance of cargo, self-assessment of imported goods by specified category of importers, selective screening of baggage of sensitive flights only and by initiating computerised assessment of import and export documents.

The Customs authorities make constant endeavour to upgrade the preventive and intelligence machinery and the skills of its officers and targeting of risk prone consignments through the increased use of computerisation and profiling of importers and exporters. The Government is also resorting to bilateral or multi-lateral Customs Cooperation Agreements between Customs Administration of other countries in order to facilitate detection of frauds.

(b) India has submitted a new Regional Strategic Plan on Customs at the Sixtth Meeting of the Regional Contact Points of the Customs Administrations in September, 1996.

The objectives of this Plan are:

(i) Effectiveness of harmonisation and simplification of Customs procedure and practices,

(ii) Effectiveness of the Customs Administrations,

(iii) Effective implementation of WTO Agreement on Valuation,

(iv) Uniform application, updating and promotion of harmonised system,

(v) Human Resource Development.

(c) The Regional Contact Points Meeting approved the Plan, subject to its endorsement by the Heads of Customs Administrations and also agreed to operationalise the same from January 1, 1997.